from Cochin Airport, Air India has increased its flights from 9 to 17 during the last one year. Cochin Airport has already been offered as a point of call to airlines of Kuwait, Oman and Yemen. Action has been initiated to set up container transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam. Railways have proposed the doubling of a 17.37 Kms. long section between Ernakulam and Mulunturutti which is a part of the Ernakulam -Kayankulam via Kottayam route, in the budget 2001-02. For development of tourism in Kerala, Department of Tourism has already sanctioned 4 projects for Rs. 2.61 crore. Besides, Planning Commission has sanctioned an additional Central assistance of Rs. 1.00 crore for preparation of project for development of tourism in Kerala, out of which Rs.50.00 lakhs has been approved for release. Ministry of Information Technology has developed Software Technology Park at Thiruvananthapuram which provides comprehensive services to companies engaged in software development and exports.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation/Completion of Projects under Mplads

*560. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of cases of irregular award of contract and deficient work execution under MPLAD Scheme have been detected;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure effective monitoring and time bound implementation/completion of projects under MPLAD Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG) in his report for the period ending March 2000 has mentioned about some instances of irregular award of contract and deficient work executed under Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The State-wise details of irregular award of contracts and deficient works are indicated in the Statements I and II respectively. *(See* below)

(c) The C&AG's report has been sent to all the Chief Secretaries requesting to take action on the points pertaining to them. A letter has also been sent to all MPs, Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha by MOS (S&PI) requesting them to recommend works under the Scheme strictly in accordance with the provision contained in the Guidelines on MPLADS.

Statement-I

Irregular award of contracts

(Rs. in lakh)

States/UTs	Constituencies	No. of works	Amount	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1. Andhra Pradesh	2 (Chittoor, Medak)	1	99.96	Installation of computer projects entrusted to agencies recommended by MP concerned.
2. Arunachal Pradesh	3 (Lohit District Tezu, West Siang District Along and Papumpare District Itanagar)	212	925.00	Executed through contractors
3. Assam	2 (Barpeta, Tezpur)	99	71.25	Executed through construction committees.
	2 (Kamrup & Sivasagar)	123	517.92	Directly allottted to construction committees.
4. Bihar	4 (Muzaffarpur, Nalanda, Patna, Ranchi)	578	884.00	Directly allotted to contractors.

1	2	3	4	5
	1 (Patna)	1	0.94	10 tonne of bitumen purchased from an un-authorized private supplier.
5. Meghalaya	1 (Shillong)	137	186.80	Allotted to grantee institutions and village level committees.
6. Mizoram	2 (Mizoram-LS & (RS)	—	—	All works costing Rs. 5 lakh and above allotted to head of beneficiary institution, President of village councils and other non-governmental organisations.
7. Nagaland	1 (Nagaland)	414	674.22	Awarded to individual contractors and agencies.
8. Orissa	1 (Keonjhar)	15	12.25	Awarded to contractors

1	2	3	4	5
				on the recommendations of MP.
	1 (Cuttack)	17	10.05	Awarded to the Secretary/ President, committee members of concerned club/head-master of High School etc.
9. West Bengal	1 (Malda)	88	166.39	Allotted to contractors.
	1 (Jalpaiguri)	2	20.00	Allotted construction of Stadium and Sports Complex to the Secretary, District Sports Society, a private agency.
10. Pondicherry	1 (Pondicherry)	1	5.00	Entrusted the work of construction of a private school building to a private party.
TOTAL :	23	1688	3573.78	

Statement-II

Deficiencies in quality of works

(Rs. in lakh)

State/UTs	Name of the constituency	Year	Details of work	Expen-diture incurred	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Bihar	(i) Patna (BDO, Patna, Sadar)	1998-99	Construction of PCC road from Chitragupta More to house of Ranjeet Bahadur Singh	13.24	53% grade II and 41% grade III stone metals utilised against specifications. There is no evidence of use of road roller for compaction. Utilisation of stone chips was only 85%. Besides, only brick on edge soling was done on road shoulders against technical sanctions of two layers of three feet wide brick soling work, weakening the strength of road shoulder.
	(ii) Patna (BDO, Fatuha)	1997-98	Constnruction of 4.97 RCC bridge on Dhaba river near Lasgarichak		There was wide variation in consumption of cement, stone,

1	2	3	4	5	6
					sand and MS rod in comparison with estimate.
					905 bags of cement against 1195 bags were used.
	(iii) Patna (BDO, Ghoswari)	1997-98	Construction of RCC cause way over river Mohane in village Trimuhane	5.49	PCC foundation was less than the thickness prescribed in estimate.
	(iv) -do-	-do-	Construction of RCC cause way over river Mohane between village Kadra and Mokama.	8.71	In RCC brick works and hume-pipe laying, sub-standard material was utilised. DDC's instructions in March 2000 for rectification at the expense of executing agent not complied by BDO, JE and AE as of July 2000.
	(v) Patna BDO, Danapur	1997-98	Construction of community hall at Raghopur	3.99	425 against 479 bags of cement and 2882 kg. against 2987 kg. steel were utilised ignoring the estimated specifications. Payment was made without quality checks.

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(vi) Patna BDO, Fatuha	1998-99	Construction of two rooms of state dispensary at Fatuha	2.80	Flooring, plastering, doors, windows, started disintegrating just after completion. Sub-standard execution confirmed by independent EE. Rectification not done till July 2000.
	(vii) Muzaffarpur	1997-98	(a) Strengthening of Saraiya Motipur road km 0 to 15 (15 split up estimates)	42.19	Quality of works was sub-standard due to use of sub-standard materials, lack of adequate compaction and black topping was not done as per specifications as was confirmed during inspection in May 1998 by Supdt. Engg. REO(W), Muzaffarpur. No remedial work done. No responsibility fixed.
			(b) -do- Km 16 to 27.4 km (10 split up estimates)	21.55	
			(c) Strengthening of Marvan-Kanti road Km 7 to 11 (5 split up estimates)	11.45	
			(d) -do- Km 3 to 6 and 12 to 14 (4 split up estimates)	17.34	
	Nalanda (BDO, Parwalpur)	1997-98	Construction of hard surface road Aluma to Yogia village	3.03	Six hume pipes of one foot dia were not provided for clearance of

1	2	3	4	5	6
					water flow as required in the estimates.
	Ranchi (EE, NREP, Ranchi)	1998-99	Construction work behind Kusum Vihar, Morabadi from house of Sh. GS Dixit to the house of Sh. BBP Singh.	0.51	The MP complained to the DC, Ranchi that the work was sub-standard and asked them to initiate an enquiry. The result of enquiry was not reported till July 2000.
2. Gujarat	Godhra	1997-98	Construction of a Ren Basera	5.00	As per specifications, the foundation filling work was to be done with kapchi, sand and cement. The first agency to which work was awarded in March 1997, failed to start the work. In Feb. 2000, work was awarded to another agency who did the filling work with brick pieces, sand and cement which was lesser in strength and cheaper in cost.

1	2	3	4	5	6
3. Kerala	5 districts	1997-2000	15 buildings	—	Joint physical verification revealed defective or poor quality of work leading to sagging of foundation, wetting, cracking of roof-slabs, walls and leaking of roofs.
4. Tripura	(i) BDO, Jirania	1999-2000	Construction of drain with culvert retaining walls and bricks soling at Kalikrishna Ashram road.	2.30	25000 bricks against actual requirement of 55000 as per estimate were utilised. This indicated poor quality of work and ignoring of estimated specifications.
	(ii) BDO, Bishalgarh	1997-98	Construction of boundary wall, retaining wall and flat brick soling at Balakbaba Ashram	3.72	33800 bricks as against 47,800 and 240 bags of cement as against 315 bags were utilised.
	(iii) Agartala Municipal Corporation	1997-99	Construction of Children park, metalling, carpeting and black topping of two roads.	6.29	10600 kgs. of bitumen was utilised as against 11635 kgs. as per estimated specifications.
TOTAL	—	—	16 works	152.58	—